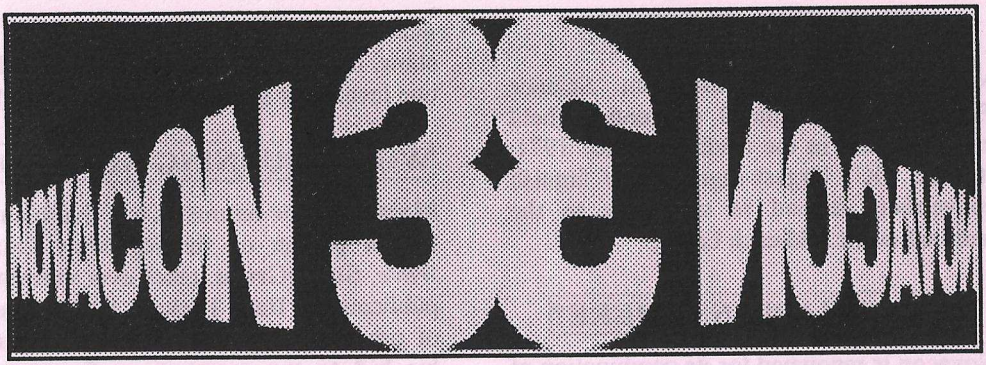


7-9 November 2003
Quality Hotel, Walsall

Room rates the same for 3rd year running!

Guest of Honour

Jon Courtenay Grimwood

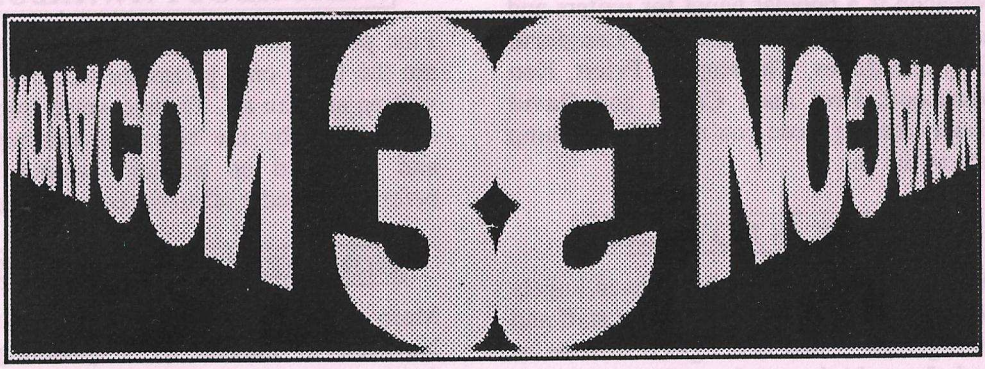
Acclaimed author of

Lucifer's Dragon

neoAddix ***reMix***

redRobe ***Felaheen***

Pashazade ***Effendi***



WHAT IS NOVACON?

Novacon is the Birmingham Science Fiction Group's annual convention, held every autumn in the Midlands since 1971. It's the UK's largest regional sf / fannish convention, second in size only to the national event held each Easter.

WHAT HAPPENS THERE?

Novacon is renowned for its combination of laid-back ambience with strong programming, the latter placing the emphasis both on written sf and cutting-edge science.

WHO'S GUEST OF HONOUR?

One of the rising stars in British science fiction, **Jon Courtenay Grimwood**'s books include Pashazade, Effendi, *neoAddix*, *redRobe* and *reMix*. Roz Kaveney applauded his brand of "superior brain candy", whilst *The Bookseller* praised *reMix*'s "vivid gore, sex and high-octane adventure. In addition, Jon is a regular genre reviewer for *SFX* and *The Guardian*.

ANYONE ELSE ATTENDING I MIGHT RECOGNISE?

Novacon is a popular haunt for writers and artists, with **Iain Banks**, **David Langford**, **Gwyneth Jones**, **Christopher Priest**, **Ken MacLeod**, **Prof Jack Cohen** and **David Hardy** among those you're likely to bump into in the bar.

WHERE IS NOVACON?

Walsall's **Quality Hotel** has proven hugely popular – great facilities, excellent staff and management – and is delighted to have us back for a third year. Just off the M6, it's ideally sized, with a central lounge bar perfect for finding your friends easily, or making new ones; programme, bar, art show, bar, dealers' room and bar are all on one level (that's right: no lifts, no stairs).

WHO'S RUNNING NOVACON?

Martin Tudor returns as our chairman; his former partner on the legendary *Critical Wave*, **Steve Green**, takes over convention publications; **Dave Hicks** is back in charge of programming; **Steve Lawson** continues his bid to run registrations for every sf event in Britain; **Alice Lawson** will run operations whilst the rest of us hide in the bar; **Cat Coast** doubles up as treasurer and secretary so she can make snide jokes in the minutes about our expense claims.

BUT I LIKE TO LOOK AT PICTURES AS WELL...

Glad you mentioned it. Our innovative CD gallery will return by popular request, providing a bold new way for both artists to display their work. It complements the traditional art show, where Europe's top artists have been invited to exhibit. For information, contact **Ann Green** at 33 Scott Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7LQ (or by e-mail on <neergnna@yahoo.co.uk>).

WHAT ABOUT AWARDS?

First presented in 1973, the Nova Awards are the UK's only prizes for fanzines, fan writing and fan art. These coveted trophies are decided by the Novacon membership and presented on Sunday evening (just before we wander off to the beer tasting).

DID I HEAR "FANZINES"?

More so than any other UK convention, Novacon is famous as a gathering of fanzine editors, artists and editors – the bar on Friday is often a frenzied blur of paper,

as fans hand out their latest issues. Why not join in the fun by publishing your own?

SHOULD I BRING MONEY?

There'll be a busy dealers' room (nearly as large as the programme room) for you to hand over your spare change to those impoverished booksellers (not forgetting those whose tables are stacked high with jewellery, models and crafts): go on, you know they need it more than you. Last year's auctions were also a great success – so don't forget to bring along books, artwork, videos, and all those *truly weird* items people only buy when it's aid of a cash-strapped fan fund.

WHAT'S A BEER TASTING?

And you call yourself a sf fan. Once again, we plan to finish the weekend with some more exotic beers and return to a bit more *tasting* and a bit less *quaffing*.

Back in the lounge bar, we'll also have the highly popular Black Sheep real ale throughout the weekend, as well as the famous Addlestones real cider.

HOW DO I KEEP IN TOUCH ?

As a member of Novacon, you'll receive regular progress reports, then pick up a programme book, limited-edition souvenir booklet by our guest of honour and helpful guides when you check in. Before the convention, check <www.novacon.org.uk> for the latest developments. If you give us your e-mail address overleaf, we can add you to our mailing list for regular updates.

WHO ARE THE BSFG?

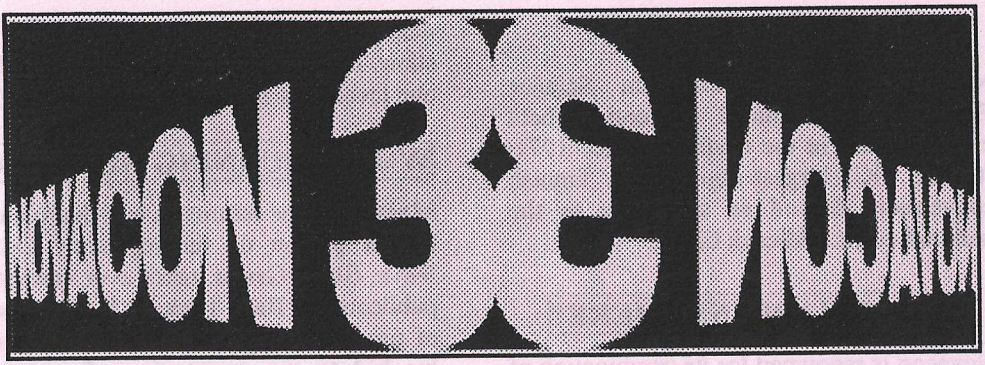
Founded in 1971, the Birmingham Science Fiction Group meets on the second Friday of each month at the Britannia Hotel in central Birmingham. Its honorary presidents are Brian Aldiss and Harry Harrison, whilst past speakers include Iain Banks, Douglas Adams, Alan Moore, Peter F Hamilton, Christopher Priest, Greg Bear, Bob Shaw, Terry Pratchett, Joe Haldeman, Shaun Hutson, Kim Stanley Robinson, Graham Joyce, Brian Stableford, Simon Clark and Dan Simmons. For details, contact Pat Brown at 106 Green Lanes, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5JH, e-mail <bsfg@bortas.demon.co.uk> or visit <www.bsfg.freeservers.com>.

CRIKEY, THIS SOUNDS LIKE MY KIND OF CONVENTION – HOW DO I JOIN?

Just fill in the form on the back of this flyer and send it, along with some of your hard-earned money, to the address overpage.

Join Novacon 33 at Novacon 32 and you could win your money back! Check the Novacon Registration hatch for details.

Data Protection Act: Your details are held purely for administrative purposes and will not be passed on to any other organisation without your express permission.



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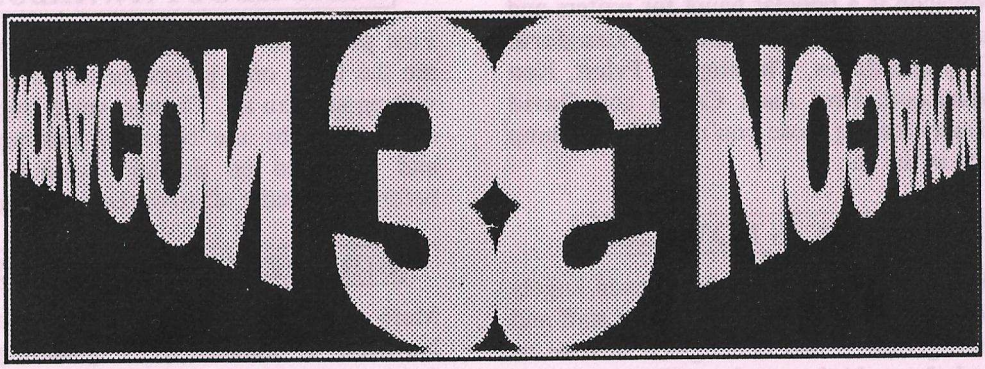
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